

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DCS, DA, LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF 22 CHILDREN IN GIBSON COUNTY**  
**Local Agencies Take Swift Action to Ensure Children's Safety**

**GIBSON COUNTY, Tenn.-** The Department of Children's Services, the District Attorney's Office in the 28 th Judicial District and local law enforcement today removed 22 children from a Gibson County home in response to a report of physical abuse and neglect.

The 22 boys and girls are in temporary protective custody while DCS officials determine the custodial status of each child. They range in age from infant to 17-years-old.

"After several months of intensive monitoring of this home, we felt removing the child from this environment was the most appropriate option," said DCS Commissioner Viola Miller.

Commissioner Miller said that while none of these children have previously been in DCS custody, the DCS licensing division has been monitoring the home for the past few months due to concerns over the high number of children in the home and concerns over whether they were receiving the appropriate care. The children were placed in the home by a variety of private providers from out-of-state agencies and in-state private agencies.

While the children are in protective custody, DCS will assess individual needs and determine the most appropriate family placement for each child.

Tennessee law provides DCS child protective services 60 days to conduct an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect. As this investigation continues, DCS will provide additional information to the public and media.

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